



Date: October 22, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending October 22, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending October 22, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Flu Update: Department of Health and Human Services

Federal health officials stated this week that another 2.6 million doses of the flu vaccine would be available in the United States in January. This supply will augment existing vaccine. Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson urged the public not to panic. The overall goal is to ensure seniors and other at risk groups receive a vaccination prior to flu season, which doesn't usually start until December and peaks in January or February.

Staff presented the "Healthy Homes Demonstration Project" at the Housing and Urban Development Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Conference in Washington, DC on October 20. The presentation highlighted the Department's efforts to eradicate lead in the community, as well as outreach and educational materials to residents and children in affected areas.

Human Resources

Eight students from the Long Beach Unified School District and Long Beach City College participated in the City's National Disability Mentoring Day, a day of job exploration to promote career development by exposing disabled students to career opportunities in the government workplace. The students shadowed representatives from the City Mayor's Office, some Council Members, as well as other departments.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

An early heavy rainstorm severely impacted the Rainbow Harbor and Marina areas with debris. The first heavy rain of the season flushes all trash and green growth from the Los Angeles river channel.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Library Services, Youth Services Division

Nearly 6,000 children and teens participated in the Library's 2004 Summer Reading Program, "Ride A Wild Tale." Despite the Library's reduced hours, the level of participation remained the same as in last year's program, and the number of "finishers" doubled, reflecting almost 20,000 summer hours spent reading by Long Beach kids. A new partnership with six community agencies and the City's Parks, Recreation and Marine Department, funded through a grant from the American Library Services to Children/Book Wholesalers Inc., allowed several thousand additional children to participate in many new non-Library locations. The grant also made possible translation of program materials into Spanish and Khmer for all participating families to enjoy.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Department of Health and Human Services

A presentation on bioterrorism preparedness will be presented to the West Long Beach Association on **October 28** at 7:00 p.m. at Silverado Park.

Parks, Recreation and Marine Maintenance Operations Bureau

The First Annual Cal Olson Charity Tournament and the grand reopening ceremonies will be held at Skylinks at Long Beach on **October 29**. All proceeds from the tournament will go to funding Long Beach Junior Golf programs.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On **October 29**, the Long Beach Senior Center will host a Halloween Costume Dinner and Dance. It's anticipated that 90 participants will enjoy dinner catered by the Friendly Cup Café and will dance the night away to lively tunes by D.J. Ken Sing.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

El Dorado Nature Center will host the California Native Plant Extravaganza on **Saturday, October 30**, providing over 1,000 native plants and wildflower seeds and gardening tips and information. The members' preview starts at 8:30 a.m., and the event is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Donations benefit the Friends of the El Dorado Nature Center and support habitat restoration at the Center. For more information on becoming a member, please call El Dorado Nature Center at (562) 570-4880. New memberships will be available at the door.

Library Services, Main Library

New Exhibits

People, Places, and Inner Visions; Paintings by Cathy Franklin

A local commercial artist, Franklin uses art to break down the barrier between artist and audience to emphasize the commonality of human experience.

Lobby Gallery, from **November 1 - December 31**.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Photographs from the Sea by Bernardo Alps

Professional photographer and President of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Cetacean Society presents photographs of marine mammals and sea birds.

Children's Gallery and Lower Level Gallery, **November 1 - December 31.**

Native American Art and Artifacts

Native American clothing, pottery and other arts are on display from the Prayer House Outreach in Long Beach.

Display Area, Main Level, **November 1 - December 31.**

Long Beach Arts – 80 Years; Continuous and Changing

Photos, documents and art from the oldest arts organization in the city.

Auditorium Lobby, Lower Level, **November 1 - 30.**

Library Services

There will be a free program and reception for the *Long Beach Arts Exhibit* with refreshments, music and historical commentary from past LBA presidents. The event is **Saturday, November 6**, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium Lobby, Lower Level. For further information, call Ruth Stewart at 562.570.6700.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,164 emergency calls for service: 145 calls for fires of which 30 involved structures. It also responded to 703 emergency medical calls, 461 requiring paramedics.

The Long Beach Fire Department Ambassadors held their 13th Annual Installation of Officers at the Reef Restaurant on Friday, October 15th. The Volunteer Fire Ambassadors provide an incredible amount of time and energy visiting every third-grade class in the Long Beach area with the Fire Safety House, educating and training young pupils to be prepared in case of emergencies.

Police

On October 17 officers from the Traffic Enforcement Section conducted a warrant sweep, targeting people who have outstanding warrants for driving without a license and/or hit and run violations. Officers identified Long Beach residents who have been given traffic citations and now have outstanding traffic warrants. Fifty-one residences were visited to search for the previously identified warrant suspects. As a result of this operation, ten people were located and arrested for outstanding traffic warrants, and one subject was arrested for possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell. The Traffic Enforcement Section developed this enforcement program through funding provided by a California Office of Traffic Safety grant.

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PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Department of Health and Human Services

A presentation on bioterrorism preparedness was made to the ECO-Link Environmental Coalition on October 14 at the Unitarian Church. Forty community members attended the presentation and asked questions regarding the DHHS' plans to respond to an incident.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Library Services, Main Library Bureau

Long Beach Public Library recently received a new video/DVD collection from the Human Rights Video Project. This is an American Library Association-sponsored project created by National Video Resources to increase the public's awareness of human rights issues through the medium of documentary film. The core of the program is a set of 13 documentary VHS and DVD titles which cover issues such as globalization, labor rights, landmines, AIDS, immigration and sexual violence. They are housed at Main Library and are all free loans.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

Staff has been working with the Long Beach Water Department on the conservation of the imported potable water usage for landscape irrigation. Retrofitted systems and new designs for the irrigation systems are being planned for the near future.

Staff has improved the look of the Lincoln Park-Civic Center by planting new flowers and trees.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

MacArthur Park accessibility improvements have been completed. Whaley Park accessibility improvements are approximately 40 percent complete.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Economic Development Bureau

Staff participated in the Annual Latin Business Expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center on October 12-13 and promoted the programs and services of the Business Development Center. Over 3,000 guests and 350 exhibitors attended the Expo.

Staff participated in the 1st Annual Regional Hispanic Business Conference at California State University, Long Beach, with an information table providing information on programs and services of the Business Development Center. Staff also served as a panelist for a workshop session. Over 75 guests attended this event.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

CBS Productions, with a cast and crew of 65, filmed CSI Miami on the rooftop of the World Trade Center and at an auto body shop on Anaheim Street.

Canterbury Productions, with a cast and crew of 125, filmed the TV Show "Joan of Arcadia" at locations throughout the city, including Linden Avenue, Broadway, and 1st Street and Alamitos Avenue.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,790 service calls, including 1,020 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 635 Turn Off orders. There were 957 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 178-meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed and 124 customer emergency orders were completed.

Public Works

The first measurable rain for the winter season hit this week. Although Long Beach did not incur significant impacts as compared with other storms, Public Works responded to calls for service Tuesday morning through Wednesday evening. Public Works staff logged 17 trees down, 88 calls for tree limbs down and 7 flooded intersections. Some Airport functions were minimally affected, but all aircraft activity was 100% operational.

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Weeklyupdate 10/22/2004.doc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
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